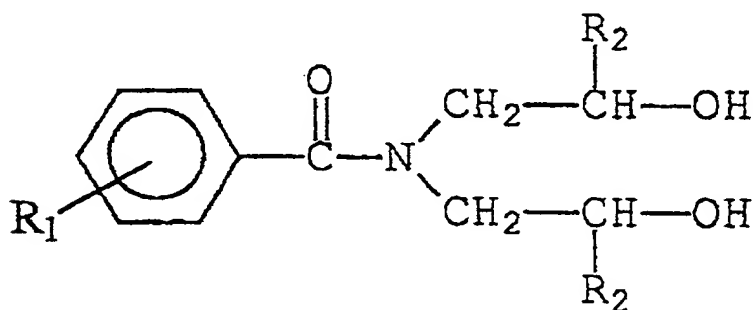


IN THE CLAIMS

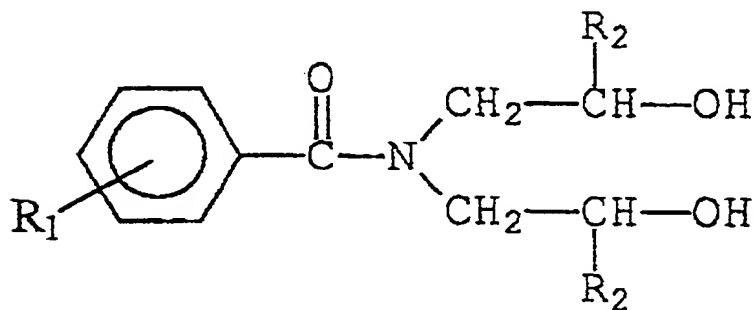
1-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A cross-linker for polymers comprising ~~the~~ a β -hydroxyalkylamide ~~as claimed in Claim 1~~ having the general formula:



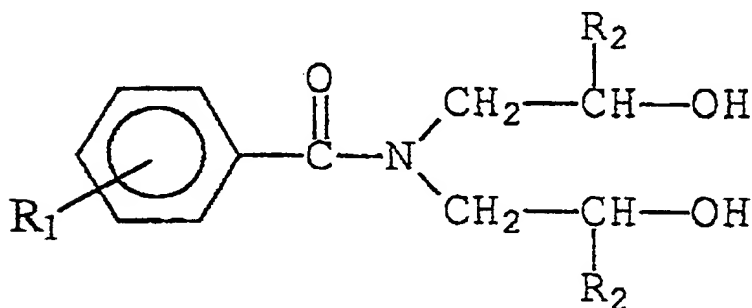
b¹
wherein R_1 is H or a linear or branched C_1 to C_{10} alkyl and R_2 is a linear or branched C_1 to C_5 alkyl.

12. (currently amended) A cross-linker for ~~polymers~~ powder coats comprising ~~the a~~
 β -hydroxyalkylamide ~~as claimed in Claim 1~~ having the general formula:



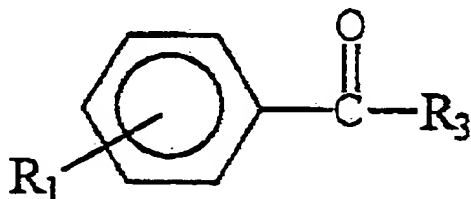
wherein R_1 is H or a linear or branched C_1 to C_{10} alkyl and R_2 is a linear or branched C_1 to C_5 alkyl.

13. (currently amended) A cross linker for polyester powder coats comprising ~~the~~ a β -hydroxyalkylamide ~~made from the process of claim 10~~ having the general formula:



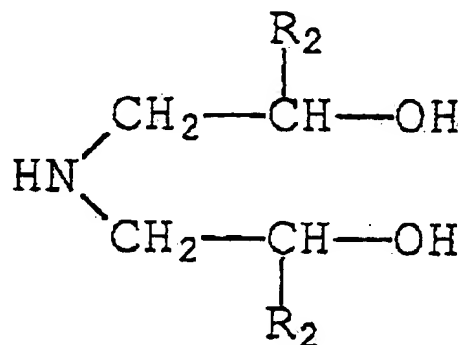
wherein R_1 is H or a linear or branched C_1 to C_{10} alkyl and R_2 is a linear or branched C_1 to C_5 alkyl;

wherein the β -hydroxyalkylamide is made from a process comprising reacting a carboxylic acid derivative having the general Formula II:



II

where R_3 is halogen or OR_4 , whereby R_4 stands for a linear C_1 to C_5 alkyl, with an alcohol amine having the general Formula III:



III

and where R_1 and R_2 are defined as indicated above.

14. (previously presented) The cross-linker as claimed in Claim 11, comprising a mixture of β -hydroxyalkylamide and another cross linker selected from the β -hydroxyalkylamides and/or epoxies.